

# Our Newsletter



PULIHARA  
June to September 2024



Pulau Lang Tengah

## Here's what has happened in the last few months and what's to come!

Welcome to PULIHARA's newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to protect the endangered sea turtles and painted terrapins along Terengganu's beautiful coastline.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our funders, collaborators, supporters, and volunteers who have continued to support us during these challenging times in our conservation journey. Your generosity and commitment have empowered us to keep our groundwork running smoothly and effectively.



PULIHARA  
Team x

In terms of recent activities, we are proud to have launched new initiatives focused on community education and marine awareness. Through engaging programmes like *Kelas Penyu*, we've been educating local communities in Kerteh about sea turtles and the urgent need for their conservation. We believe that fostering this connection with nature will inspire future generations to protect our precious marine ecosystems.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that our work relies on the passion and support of the community and people like you. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing to our efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, we can protect and preserve these endangered species for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

In this newsletter you can expect:

---

Nesting Data

---

Ongoing Research

---

Outreach Initiatives

---

Stories of Impacts

---

Activities for All

---

New Merchandise

---



## Nesting and Hatching Data: All Project Sites

As of **15 September**, we have recorded the following data across all PULIHARA sites:



### Green sea turtle

Nests saved	323
Eggs saved	29,858
Hatchlings released	19,617



### Hawksbill turtle

Nests saved	0
Eggs saved	0
Hatchlings released	0



### Painted terrapin

Nests saved	5
Eggs saved	56
Hatchlings released	0

We observed a **significant drop** in sea turtle nestings this year compared to previous season. While we don't have specific data from other conservation organisations, anecdotal reports suggest that this trend is **affecting nesting beaches across Terengganu**.

Several factors could be contributing to the low nesting season, which can be influenced by various **environmental** and **biological factors**. Such factors include **changes in ocean currents, water temperatures, food availability, and the natural variability in the reproductive cycles of sea turtles**. Rising sea temperatures due to climate change also can impact turtle migration patterns and nesting behaviour.

These conditions can affect the number of female sea turtles that come ashore to nest and the frequency with which they lay eggs. Please note that a majority of the green sea turtle and the painted terrapin clutches are still incubating in our hatcheries.

### TOTAL WEIGHT OF TRASH REMOVED ACROSS ALL PROJECT SITES

# 797.5 kg

TOTAL NUMBER OF BEACH CLEAN-UPS

# 69

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDERWATER CLEAN-UPS

# 8

TOTAL RECYCLABLE WEIGHT

# 190.0 kg

TOTAL NON-RECYCLABLE WEIGHT

# 485.0 kg

# CHAKAR HUTAN

Chakar Hutan is buzzing with excitement! From sea turtle nesting activities to community outreach programmes, there's never a dull moment. Nests are being protected, hatchlings are making their way to the sea, and locals are getting hands-on with turtle conservation efforts. Join us in the action as we work together to protect these incredible creatures and their precious habitats!



## KELAS PENYU

We have *successfully conducted 21 Kelas Penyu series*, with the final one concluding on October 4th.

These sessions are held every Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, offering the local community a chance to learn about sea turtles and how they can contribute to safeguarding these endangered species.

The classes are facilitated by our dedicated staff, volunteers, and interns, and are generously funded by *The Habitat Foundation*.

A huge thank you to *Petronas Dagangan Berhad (PDB)* for visiting us on September 6th, and for their generous donation of a *rainwater harvesting tank and two solar-powered lights* for our Visitors' Hut! This support helps us reduce our environmental footprint while providing essential resources to maintain our site.

All 136 participants rolled up their sleeves and experienced our conservation efforts firsthand!

## CSR WITH PETRONAS



## EXTERNAL EVENTS

We recently had the pleasure of participating in two exciting *community events*, one in Kerteh Damansara Inn and the other at Zoo Kemaman, where we engaged with locals and visitors to spread vital awareness about turtle conservation.

These events were a fantastic opportunity to *connect* with the community, *inspire* eco-friendly actions, and *raise awareness* about the role we all play in ensuring the survival of sea turtles for future generations.



Chakar Hutan now offers a unique opportunity to participate in Hatchling Release and Turtle Watching activities. Visitors can experience the wonder of sea turtles in their natural habitat, witnessing the nesting process and observing hatchlings as they make their way to the sea. Open to everyone, these programmes provide a close connection with these fascinating creatures and emphasise the importance of conservation. It's a chance to both observe and support efforts to protect these endangered species!

# TINY TURTLES, BIG JOURNEY



Join us for a heartwarming experience as we release sea turtle hatchlings back into the ocean! Witness the incredible moment when these tiny creatures make their way to the sea, beginning their journey of life.

## PACKAGE A

### MALAYSIAN ONLY

Adult	RM15
Children	Free



## PACKAGE B

### MALAYSIAN

### NON MALAYSIAN

Adult	RM25	Adult	RM100
Children	RM25	Children	RM100

*Guests will have the opportunity to see the hatchlings up close as they will be placed in coconut shells that guests can hold.*



# TURTLE WATCHING

This unforgettable experience is offered exclusively between 7 PM and 12 AM on select dates during the nesting season. Please get in touch with us to find out more!

## INDIVIDUAL

## FAMILY (MINIMUM 4 PAX)

MALAYSIAN



RM50 per person



RM50 per person



RM25 per person  
Age 7 to 12 years old only



RM25 per person  
Age 7 to 12 years old only

NON MALAYSIAN



RM250 per person



RM220 per person



RM200 per person  
Age 7 to 12 years old only



RM200 per person  
Age 7 to 12 years old only

---

# LANG TENGAH

Recent months in Lang Tengah have witnessed a dynamic blend of progress and challenges in our marine conservation efforts. These developments underscore the ongoing efforts and adaptability required to protect and preserve Lang Tengah's precious marine ecosystems amidst environmental pressures.



## CORAL & TURTLE TALKS

Between July and September, we conducted *50 marine awareness talks*, reaching *over 500 island resort guests and visitors*. These sessions, held at our research station, provided an in-depth look at our conservation efforts, featuring informative displays of sea turtle and coral specimens. To enhance understanding, we also showcased a *replica coral tree*, helping participants visualise the critical restoration work we do. The talks aimed to inspire greater awareness and involvement in marine conservation.

## MOORING BUOY DEPLOYMENT

On July 19th, a mooring buoy was successfully deployed at *Tanjung Telunjuk*, an important step toward marine conservation in the area. The buoy *provides a safe and secure anchorage* for snorkelling and dive boats, allowing them to *dock without using anchors* that can cause significant damage to the coral reefs. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the marine ecosystem at Tanjung Telunjuk, ensuring that its rich biodiversity can thrive while still supporting *sustainable tourism* and recreational activities.



## SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

On August 28th, a school programme was held for *SMK Chendering*, attended by 20 students and two accompanying teachers. The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and conserving sea turtles and coral reefs.

During the session, students were educated on the critical role these species play in the ecosystem and the actions they can take to support conservation efforts. Each student *received an informative deck of cards* containing facts about the seven species of sea turtles, coral ecosystems, coral bleaching, and the essential role corals play in marine life.

This initiative, funded by *Yayasan Sime Darby*, helped empower the younger generation to become stewards of marine conservation.



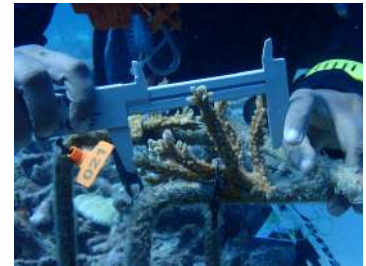
# CORAL BLEACHING EVENTS

The recent *heatwave* sweeping through the region has led to a *significant coral bleaching* event, severely affecting the corals being cultivated on our coral trees. Coral bleaching, caused by *elevated water temperatures*, forces corals to expel the algae living in their tissues, turning them white and making them more *vulnerable to disease and death*.

On August 17th, we conducted *post-bleaching assessments* on the fragments growing on our *six coral trees*. The findings revealed *varying survival rates* based on the species, with survival ranging from *8.33% to 31.25%* following the bleaching event. This alarming decline highlights the devastating effects of climate change on marine ecosystems and the fragile nature of coral reefs.

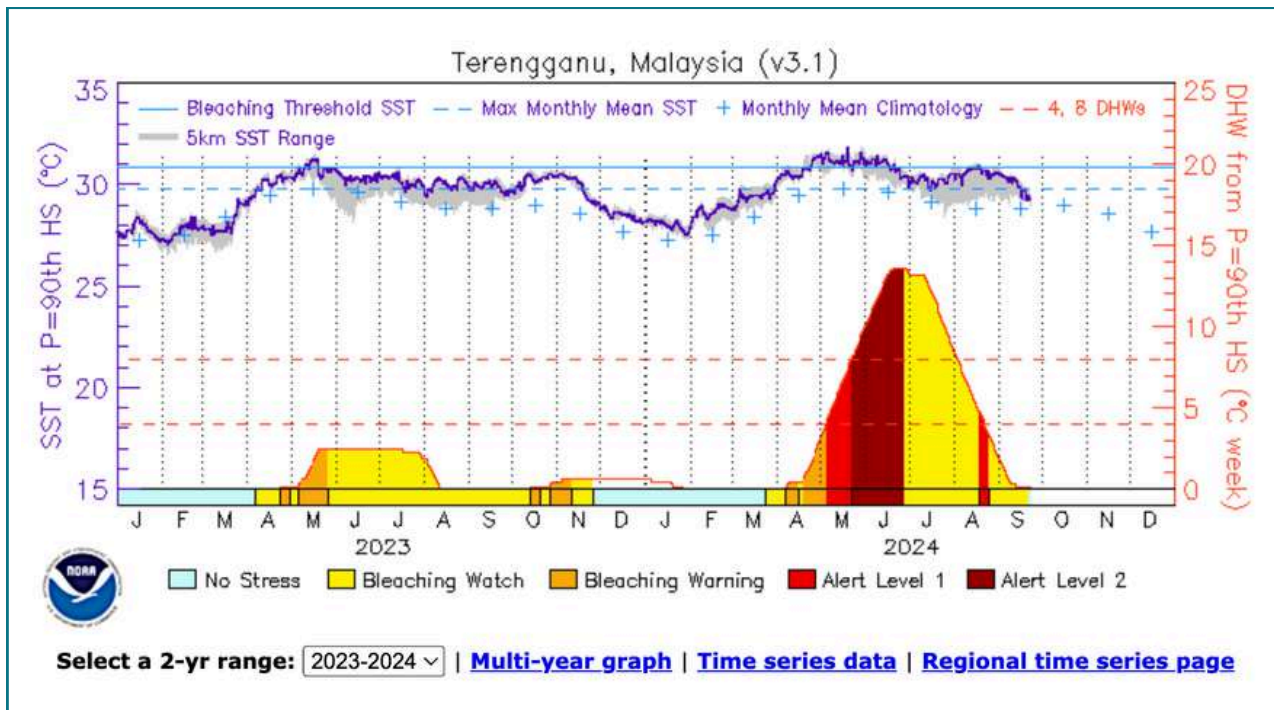
However, *not all is lost*.

Recent data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows a downward trend in sea surface temperatures in Terengganu (Figure 1). If this trend continues, we are hopeful that some of these corals will begin their recovery process.

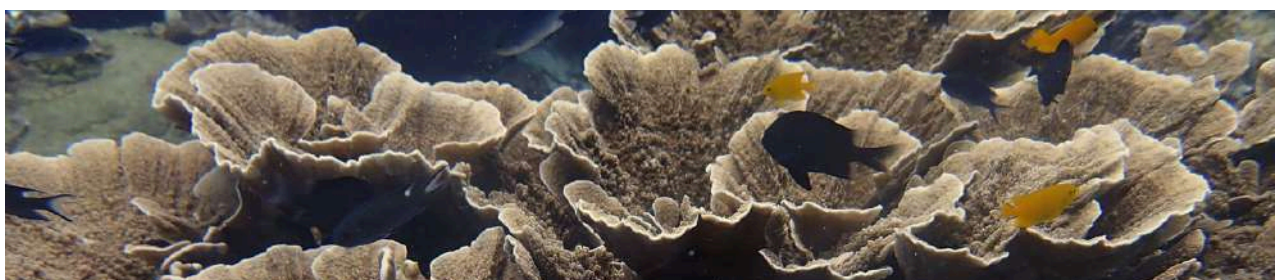


Link:

<https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/vs/gauges/terengganu.php>



**Figure 1.** The time series graph obtained from NOAA's website provides a record of temperature, thermal stress, and bleaching potential between years.



# TANJONG JARA

At Tanjong Jara, our conservation efforts have been in full swing with a range of exciting activities and educational programmes. From engaging Turtle Talk sessions with audiences from all walks of life to the expansion of our Nest Adoption Programme at Chakar Hutan, we continue to foster a deep connection between our guests and the natural world.

## OUR VISITORS' HUT AT TANJONG JARA RESORT



### Turtle Talks

To date, we have welcomed over **1,700 guests** who have enjoyed a tranquil afternoon at our Visitors' Hut while gaining valuable insights into the lives of sea turtles and painted terrapins, and the ongoing efforts to protect these endangered species.



### Turtle Kids Club

This engaging and educational session, held every Friday, is designed to introduce young minds to the wonders of marine life and the importance of turtle conservation. Nearly **100 kids** have joined us so far!



### Hatchling Release

The **low nesting season** at Tanjong Jara has significantly **impacted** the number of nests and the frequency of hatchling release activities. With **fewer nests** being laid, the opportunities for releasing hatchlings into the sea have decreased, **limiting** the number of events we can hold.



### Nest Inspections

Albeit the lower nesting numbers at Tahu Tiga and Kuala Abang, the two beaches adjacent to the resort, we **successfully conducted** several Nest Inspection sessions with the guests.

It warms our hearts to see gleaming faces upon the sight of little hatchlings found during these inspections!



### Nest Adoption

Our Nest Adoption Programme has **expanded** to our sister project in Chakar Hutan, Kerteh. This season, we have successfully adopted out **45 nests**, thanks to the support of both returning and new adopters. Among these, **37 are green sea turtle nests** and **8 are painted terrapin nests**. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed.

To provide more opportunities for guests and support our conservation efforts, we have also **expanded** our hatchling release activities to Chakar Hutan, located just a **45-minute drive from the resort**. This extension allows us to continue offering meaningful experiences even during a challenging nesting season.

## EVENTS AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES



### TURTLE TALK SESSION WITH TAIPEI EUROPEAN SCHOOL

We hosted an *interactive Turtle Talk session* with young students from *Taipei European School*, introducing them to the world of sea turtles and the importance of conservation. The session covered the life cycle of sea turtles, the threats they face from various environmental challenges, and their role in marine ecosystems. Students also learned about nest protection, hatchling releases, and how small actions can help protect these endangered species, inspiring them to become *future ocean stewards*.

### COLLABORATION WITH UMT BIODIVERSITY CLUB

The *Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Biodiversity Club* hosted *Turtle Shell-ebration Day*, a virtual event celebrating *World Turtle Day*, with *150 participants* joining via *Webex*. The event raised awareness about sea turtle conservation in Malaysia, featuring a presentation on conservation efforts at *PULIHARA* project sites and the challenges faced by sea turtles. Attendees also learned about *volunteering and internship opportunities*, and were educated on the different sea turtle species in Malaysia, their ecological importance, and ways to support their preservation. Participants were inspired to take *collective action* to help protect these endangered creatures..



### WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY MINI CARNIVAL

To celebrate *World Sea Turtle Day*, we transformed the *Visitors' Hut* into a lively, *eco-conscious mini carnival* that brought conservation to life in an engaging and meaningful way. The event was a hit with guests, featuring games and activities crafted from *recyclable materials*—over *80%* of which were *collected during our beach clean-ups*.

Every game had a *purpose*, turning fun into a hands-on lesson about sustainability and ocean conservation. Families and children enthusiastically joined in, learning how small actions can make a *big impact* on protecting marine life. The event wasn't just a celebration of sea turtles, but a *reminder* of what communities can achieve together when they combine creativity with a commitment to conservation, driving home the message that everyone has a role to play in safeguarding our planet.



---

# NEW PULIHARA MERCHANDISE JUST DROPPED!

(We know you've been looking forward to it)



**TOTE BAG  
TB3  
RM30**



**TOTE BAG  
TB4  
RM30**



**TOTE BAG  
TB5  
RM30**



**TOTE BAG  
TB6  
RM30**

**Please get in touch with us to find out how to  
purchase these tote bags!**

---